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FACT SHEET

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Improving Trial Court Facilities: Fiscal Year 2007–2008 Funding Requests

Los Angeles—New Long Beach Courthouse

Calaveras—New San Andreas Courthouse
Lassen—New Susanville Courthouse
Madera—New Madera Courthouse
Riverside—New Riverside Mid-County Region Courthouse
San Benito—New Hollister Courthouse
San Bernardino—New San Bernardino Courthouse
San Joaquin—New Stockton Courthouse
Tulare—New Porterville Courthouse

In April 2007 the Judicial Council adopted an updated Trial Court Capital Outlay Plan that includes 175 new construction, major renovation, and expansion projects estimated to cost \$9.8 billion (January 2007 dollars). In August 2006 the Judicial Council directed staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to submit, as part of the fiscal year 2007–2008 budget process, funding requests for nine new trial court facilities. The initial funding request for these nine urgently needed projects is \$31.2 million in 2007–2008 with total project costs estimated to be \$1.2 billion, which would be funded by State Court Facilities Construction Funds and state General Obligation Bond Funds. If approved, these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed projects for courts across California. As noted below, the judicial branch will additionally pursue alternative revenue sources over the next several years to support the full implementation of the statewide capital plan.

New Long Beach Courthouse

A new Long Beach courthouse is proposed for initial funding of \$5.9 million for fiscal year 2007–2008. The new facility will have 31 courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this 306,480-gross-square-foot courthouse is \$297 million (escalated to construction mid-point estimated as summer of 2012). A site has not been selected for the new courthouse. The project is proposed to be developed through a public-private-partnership. This project—ranked in the Immediate Need priority group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan—is one of the highest priority capital outlay projects for the judicial branch.

No Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The Long Beach area is served by 27 courtrooms in the Long Beach Courthouse in the city's civic center area. This facility, which has been expanded once and more recently augmented by the addition of a modular building used for traffic court—is among the worst in the state in terms of lack of security and overcrowding. This facility cannot meet the current needs, or any future needs, of the court, which moves approximately 225 prisoners through its staff and public corridors each day. The deplorable conditions of the existing facilities and the public's hindered access to court services are among the reasons why the proposed new Long Beach courthouse is urgently needed.



In-custody juvenile defendants are regularly taken to courtrooms through this public hallway on the 5th floor, often passing by family members, witnesses, and rival gang members.

Local Government Collaboration on Project

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of Long Beach adopted resolutions in November and December, respectively, in support of the need to replace the existing Long Beach courthouse with a new facility in Long Beach. The AOC will work collaboratively with the county and city to develop a project that meets the goals of the local community.

Long-term Funding Needs

The California judicial branch is exploring additional, alternative means to fund the state's sizable need for courthouse infrastructure improvements. Options include pursuing bond funding—consideration will be given to both revenue and general obligation bonds. Another potential consideration involves increasing criminal penalties and other filing fees to be contributed to the State Court Facilities

Construction Fund for the sole purpose of funding court construction projects. While these initiatives evolve, the Judicial Council will pursue annual funding requests to begin to address the most critical deficiencies in the state's courthouses.

More Information

A project feasibility report for the New Long Beach courthouse is being updated by the AOC.

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